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Message Text

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73
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

SIL-01 SAM-01 OPIC-03 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 /069 R

FRAF ED BY EUR/WE:GPFOURIER:JML
APPROVED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL
EB/CSB:BILLER (INFO)
---------- 124722
O R 180036Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
DOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:BGEN, EINV, PO

SUBJECT:TIMEX DISPUTE

REF: STATE 36194

1. RONALD MARSCHING, SENIOR VP OF TIMEX, TELEPHONED DEPT. LATE FEB. 17 TO ADVISE THAT MANAGEMENT OF LISBON "SISTER COMPANY, WAS STILL UNABLE TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH EITHER "THREE- MAN COMMITTEE" (PARA. 4 OF REFTEL) OR LABOR MINISTRY. HE ASKED IF REPORT OF DEPTOFF'S DISCUSSION WITH BOARD CHAIRMAN SIEM HAD BEEN RELAYED TO EMBASSY, AND WHAT RESULTS COULD BE EXPECTED OF EMBASSY'S EFFORTS.

2. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT DISCUSSION HAD BEEN RELAYED, BUT
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RESULTS AS YET UNKNOWN. DEPTOFF POINTED OUT WEEKEND AND

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EMBASSY HOLIDAY HAD INTERVENED SINCE CONVERSATION WITH SIEM.

3. MARSCHING THEN SAID THAT UNLESS LABOR MINISTRY AGREE'S TO MEET WITH TMX'S LISBON MANAGEMENT ON OR BEFORE FEB. 19, LISBON MANAGER WOULD INFORM LABOR MINISTRY FEB. 20 OF FIRM'S INTENTION TO DISMISS AN ADDITIONAL 500 WORKERS ON FEB. 23. MARSCHING ADDED THAT FIRM CONSIDERS ONLY POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO ADDITIONAL DISMISSAL WOULD BE THREE-DAY

WORKWEEK FOR ALL EMPLOYEES,A PROPOSAL WHICH HE SAID HAD ALREADY BEEN PRESENTED TO LABOR MINISTRY BUT TO WHICH MINISTRY HAD NOT YET REACTED.

3. DEPTOFF. SAID HE WOULD RELAY ABOVE INFORMATION TO EMBASSY AND CONVEY ANY RESPONSE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE. HE ADDED HE WAS SURPRISED BY TIMEX'S SHORT FUSE AND HOPED FIRM WOULD BE PATIENT.

COMMENT: MARSCHING LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT THREE-DAY WORK WEEK ALTERNATIVE TO ADDITIONAL WORKER DISMISSAL IS LIMIT OF "COMPROMISE" TO WHICH FIRM WOULD AGREE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, BUSINESS FIRMS, LABOR DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE038118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760059-0660
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760239/aaaabhou.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 36194
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <01 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMEX DISPUTE
TAGS: BGEN, EINV, ELAB, PO, US, TIMEX
To: LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006